

REMARKS

In response to the requirement for restriction to one invention, the applicant elects without traverse the Group I claims drawn to a method of mooring a floating hydrocarbon vessel and a method of installing an offshore floating vessel (claims 1-11 and 12-27). Group II claims 28-41 drawn to an arrangement for installing an offshore floating vessel and Group III claims 42-44 drawn to a method of tendon installation are cancelled without prejudice to file one or more divisional applications under 35 USC § 121.

In response to the requirement to elect species for prosecution should no generic claim be finally held allowable, applicant makes the following provisional elections:

With respect to (1) the species of tension leg platforms, applicant traverses the election requirement, because except for Figures 4 and 8, which depict only mooring tendons, all Figures 1-3, 5-7, and 9-13 illustrate the same tension leg platform. The only differences illustrated are the tensioner and pull-down tension member, both of which are included in separate species election requirements. Thus, the applicant is uncertain as to what different species of tension leg platform the examiner refers. Nevertheless, the applicant provisionally elects the species of Figures 1-7. Claims 1-27 are readable thereon.

With respect to (2) the species of tensioning devices, applicant elects the winch (Figures 1-7). Claims 1-15, 17-18, and 20-27 are readable thereon.

With respect to (3) the species of pull-down tension member, applicant elects the chain (Figures 1-7). Claims 1-27 are readable thereon.

With respect to (4) the species of controlling the tensioning device, applicant elects local control. Claims 1-22 and 24-27 are readable thereon.

Therefore, claims 16, 19, and 23 are withdrawn from consideration until such time as a generic claim, e.g., claim 12 or 14, is found to be allowable.

In summary, claims 1-27 remain in the application, with claims 16, 19, and 23 withdrawn from consideration pending the allowance of a generic claim. Applicant believes that claims 1-27 are novel and patentably distinct and that the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-27 and passage to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Brett T. Cooke
Reg. No. 55,836

Andrews & Kurth L.L.P.
600 Travis, Suite 4200
Houston, Texas 77002
713/220-3813 (office)
713/238-4285 (facsimile)
Customer No. 23,444

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